the marine forms are intermingled without the slightest regard to classification. This was no doubt occasioned by the periodical form in which the work was published; but it is evident that no ultimate arrangement was intended, as the whole book is continuously paged.

The History of Reptilia, by Latreille and Sonnini, consists of little more than a modification of Lacépède. Daudin* however, in his work, which formed a continuation of Sonnini's Buffon, took higher ground. By establishing several new and natural genera of Serpents, &c., he proved himself capable of correct and original views; and in his descriptions of the Tortoises, he not only discriminated with considerable accuracy, but, by his enlarged and full descriptions, rendered the comparison and elucidation of synonyms a more easy task. The first attempt at applying a distinct name to any one of the different forms, appears in his application of the term "Chelones" to the whole of the marine species.

The appearance of that portion of Shaw's "General Zoology†", in this country, in the same year as that in which Daudin published his work in France, renders it difficult to assign the right of priority in those cases in which it has happened that the two authors described the same new species‡.

It is however to Brongniart that we owe the first marked and important improvement in the arrangement of these animals. He first recognised their proper rank in the system, considering the whole group as constituting a distinct order, to which he applied the term "Cheloniens," which has been adopted by most subsequent naturalists, either in its French form, or with a Latin termination. To him also the merit is due, of giving to many of the minor groups distinct generic names, all of which, though with many additions, have been since retained. Whatever merit therefore may belong to the subsequent improvements of Geoffroy, of Oppel, of Schweigger, and many others, to whose labours I shall have occasion again to allude, we cannot refuse to Brongniart

* *Histoire Naturelle generale et particulière des Reptiles*;—suite au Buffon de Sonnini. An X. XI.

† General Zoology, by George Shaw, M.D. &c., vol. iii. Part I. 1802.

‡ This has occurred in the case of *Testudo radiata* of Shaw, to which Daudin gives the name of *T. Coui*. As Shaw derived his knowledge of the species from a specimen already described in Grew's "Curiosities of the Museum of the Royal Society," of which work Daudin was evidently ignorant, I have thought it right to retain the name given by the English naturalist, especially as it has been recognised by every subsequent author.

the praise of having first broken through the contracted notions which had been previously held respecting the Testudinata*. The charm once broken, it was found that several other types of form existed, of sufficient importance to require distinct generic appellations. For example, Geoffroy gave an excellent paper† on the fluviatile species which have a coriaceous covering, and other equally distinct characters, to which he gave the name *Trionyx*. Schweigger had already assigned to them in manuscript the name *Amyda;* and as Geoffroy was aware of this fact, from Schweigger's manuscript having been submitted to him before the publication of his own Monograph, it is not easy to imagine why he suppressed it, and employed a new one of his own.

In 1820 Merrem published his "Tentamen Systematis Amphibiorum," a work in which the discoveries of former authors are embodied with considerable improvements of his own, both in arrangement and nomenclature. His separation of the Batrachia from the Reptilia as a distinct class, is an important alteration, in which he is borne out equally by their anatomy and physiology; and his arrangement of the Reptilia in orders, though not free from some obvious objections, evinces a considerable acquaintance with the subject, and no slight degree of originality in his views. The application of ordinal terms, founded upon the character of the integument, is ingenious, and has the advantage at least of uniformity and convenience. For the present order he adopts, from Oppel, the name Testudinata; a term which I have, upon mature consideration, retained as more advantageous and less liable to objection, than any other that has been suggested. The grounds upon which I have made this choice, will be stated hereafter. The attempt of this author to give to every species an essential character wholly independent of colour, renders the bulk of his work almost useless, excepting for the sake of its very extensive synonymy.

The Monograph of Schweigger‡ deserves especial mention, as being much more complete than any that had previously appeared, and as having anticipated some improvements which have since been made by other authors who

* *Essai d'une Classification naturelle des Reptiles*, par A. Brongniart: Paris 1805. See also a Paper by the same author in the *Bulletin des Sciences par la Soc. Philom.* No. 35.

† *Mémoire sur les Tortues molles, nouveau Genre sous le Nom de Trionyx*, par Geoffroy St. Hilaire: *Annales du Muséum d'Hist. Nat.* tom. xiv. p. 15.

‡ *Prodromus Monographiæ Cheloniorum*, auctore Schweigger: Konisberger Archiv fur Naturwischenschaft, &c. 1812.

THOMAS BELL *A Monograph of the Testudinata* LONDON, 1832-1836 THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA Octavo